

GUAM Environmental Protection Agency

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UPDATE – Special Advisory for Toguan River and Bay in Umatac lifted, beach advisory still in effect

September 6, 2017 (Tiyan, Guam) — The Guam Environmental Protection Agency (Guam EPA) has received notice from the Guam Waterworks Authority (GWA) regarding the bypass operation at the Umatac-Merizo wastewater treatment plant. The GWA Umatac-Merizo WWTP bypass that commenced on August 28, 2017, was suspended on September 3, 2017.

As of September 1, 2017, the Toguan Bay is still listed in the Guam EPA weekly beach advisory. On September 7, 2017, Guam EPA's Beach Monitoring program will collect samples from 44 recreational waters around the island, including the Toguan Bay. Results from these samples will be published on September 8, 2017. Sampling, testing and analysis of Guam's recreational waters is performed on a weekly basis and identifies waters that are polluted above acceptable bacteriological levels.

As a reminder, swimming, fishing or playing in polluted waters may result in minor illnesses such as sore throats or diarrhea and might also result in more serious illnesses such as meningitis, encephalitis, or severe gastroenteritis. Children, elderly adults and all those afflicted with weakened immune systems have a greater chance of becoming ill when coming in contact with contaminated water.

For more information, please contact Guam EPA Public Information Officer Nic Lee at 300-4753 or <u>nic.rupley@epa.guam.gov</u>.

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